

Message Text

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ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 NSCE-00 SR-02 ORM-01 SCA-01 VO-03 A-01 OPR-02

AID-20 IO-10 INSE-00 SSO-00 /108 W

----- 049023

P R 070823Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4878

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

USLO PEKING

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DEPARTMENT PASS TO INS DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GREENE

USLO FOR CONSUL GENERAL CROSS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SRF HK VN

SUBJ: SITREP-- VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN HONG KONG

REF: HONG KONG 4950

1. LATEST COUNT ON VIETNAMESE REFUGEES CURRENTLY IN HHG CUSTODY IS 3,861. THIS FIGURES INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING: REVISED TOTAL ON ARRIVALS VIA CLARA MAERSK IS 3,743; 58 FROM SWISS AIR; 9 FROM AIR AMERICA FLIGHT; AND 51 ARRIVING ON TWO FISHING BOATS MAY 6. ADDITIONALLY, SIX AIR AMERICA EMPLOYEES AND 18 AIR VIETNAM EMPLOYEES ARE NOW BEING PROCESSED BOLAGS FOR SECTION 203(A)(7) RELIEF. ACCORDING TO THOSE WHO ENTERED ILLEGALLY ON FISHING BOATS, ABOUT 20 OTHERS HAVE DISAPPEARED INTO HONG KONG URGAN AREAS.

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2. HKG IS STILL SCREENING THE CARA MAERSK GROUP AND

CONTEMPLATES SEEKING ASSISTANCE FROM ICEM LATER ON.
CANADIAN IMMIGRATION OFFICERS ARE ALSO INTERVIEWING
SOME OF THIS GROUP TODAY AND HAVE INDICATED THEY WILL
ACCEPT AT LEAST 200.

3. AIR AMERICA AND SWISS AIR GROUP OF 67 BEING HELD
SEPARATELY AND ABSOLUTELY NOTHING HAS BEEN DONE CONCERNING
THEM. HKG IS ASSUMING THAT USG, WHICH HAS REQUESTED
EXTENSIONS OF THEIR STAY IN HONG KONG, IS ACTIVELY
CONSIDERING THEIR REQUESTS TO ENTER THE US. ICEM
GENEVA ALSO APPARENTLY BELIEVES SUCH AUTHORIZATION IS IN
THE WORKS (GENEVA 3266). WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEFINITE
WORD ON THE STATUS OF SUCH CONSIDERATIONS AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE.

4. FISHING BOAT ARRIVALS (51 PERSONS) ARE BEING HELD
SEPARATELY FOR QUESTIONING , PRIMARILY CONCERNING THE
ADDITIONAL 20 OR SO WHO HAVE DISAPPEARED. HKG IMMIGRATION
OFFICIAL INDICATED THEY WOULD PROBABLY JOIN THE CLARA
MAERSK GROUP AT ONE OF THE DETENTION AREAS.

5. WE CONTINUE TO HAVE TRICKLE OF BOTH CAMBODIAN AND
VIETNAMESE, WHO HAVE BEEN IN HONG KONG FOR SOME TIME,
APPROACH US FOR ENTRY TO US. WE HAVE BEEN SUGGESTING
TO ALL OF THESE THAT THEY APPLY UNDER SECTION 203 (A) (7)
INA. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF INS "LOW PROFILE" POSITION
(INS CABLE 0594 OF MAY 6, 1975), CONGEN WILL REFER
ONLY FOR VOLAG ASSISTANCE.

6. SITUATION IN HONG KONG SHOWS EVERY SIGN OF BECOMING
A MAJOR PRESS PROBLEM, ESPECIALLY SINCE RELEASE OF
STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S MAY 6 STATEMENT. PUBLIC
INTEREST IS HIGH AND ADVERSE COMMENT ON USG STANCE
CONCERNING REFUGEES IN HONG KONG IS GROWING. WE BELIEVE
SOME USG INITIATIVE , MOST READILY AVAILABLE IN ACCEPTANCE
OF 67 PERSONS FROM AIR AMERICA AND SWISS AIR FLIGHTS INTO
US, WOULD BE OF CONSIDERABLE ASSISTANCE TO US BOTH IN
OUR PUBLIC RELATIONS AND IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HG
AUTHORITIES WHO ARE ATTEMPTING TO COPE WITH PROBLEM AS
BEST POSSIBLE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975HONGK05019
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750159-0931
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750574/aaaacptv.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ITF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 HONG KONG 4950
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>; APPROVED <02 MAY 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SITREP-- VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN HONG KONG
TAGS: SREF, HK, VN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006